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AGRICULTURAL MEMORANDUM NO 489

AREAS WITH A LOW SENSITIVITY TO DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT

L P Smith

Following the analysis of Ag Mems 487 and 488, the stations which show least improvement in sowing dates after drainage improvement are in the following counties

Worcester	Bedford	Sussex
Warwick	Cambridge	
Oxford	Hertford	
Buckingham	Essex	

Much of this area lies in a broad belt from the Thames Estuary to the Shropshire border.

The mean gains in yield are

For a	7 day schedule	1.3%
	10 day schedule	1.8%
	14 day schedule	2.7%

or approximately half the gains to be expected in the high sensitivity areas.

Full details are given in the Table.

Any comments or suggestions on this paper should be referred to the author.

Meteorological Office
Bracknell
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Areas with a Low Sensitivity to Drainage Improvement

7-day Schedules

Percentage Loss of Yield (1949-1968)

		Drainage				
		A	B	C	D	Index
Cambridge		0.3	1.0	2.6	4.1	1.3
Watford	(Herts)	1.5	2.4	3.7	4.9	1.1
Horsham	(Sussex)	2.1	3.0	4.5	6.0	1.3
Aylesbury	(Bucks)	2.5	3.6	5.4	6.9	1.5
Writtle	(Essex)	0.4	1.2	2.3	3.6	1.1
Bedford		1.1	2.3	3.7	4.9	1.3
Worcester		2.1	3.2	5.2	6.4	1.5
Oxford		1.1	2.9	4.3	5.5	1.5
Stratford	(Warwick)	2.8	3.8	5.1	6.2	1.1
MEAN		1.54	2.60	4.09	5.39	1.30

10-day Schedules

Cambridge	1.1	2.6	4.3	6.9	1.9
Watford	2.3	3.7	5.9	8.2	2.0
Horsham	3.1	4.1	6.5	8.9	2.0
Aylesbury	3.3	4.8	7.3	9.1	2.0
Writtle	1.6	2.6	4.4	6.9	1.8
Bedford	2.0	3.4	5.4	7.4	1.8
Worcester	3.4	4.6	7.0	8.9	1.9
Oxford	2.3	4.1	5.7	7.2	1.7
Stratford	3.9	5.3	6.7	8.1	1.4
MEAN	2.56	3.91	5.91	7.96	1.82

14-day Schedules

Cambridge	3.1	4.9	8.3	12.8	3.2
Watford	4.1	6.3	9.5	13.5	3.1
Horsham	4.6	6.4	9.8	12.7	2.8
Aylesbury	5.0	6.9	10.0	12.5	2.6
Writtle	3.5	4.9	8.2	11.8	3.0
Bedford	3.9	5.8	8.9	11.9	2.7
Worcester	5.1	7.0	9.9	12.4	2.5
Oxford	4.0	6.0	8.1	10.3	2.1
Stratford	5.7	7.2	9.7	11.6	2.0
MEAN	4.33	6.16	9.16	12.17	2.65